



APRIL 2015

BOBCAT NEWS

BUCKLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

I hope this newsletter finds everyone enjoying our Spring weather! I want to thank everyone for attending our conferences a few weeks ago. Because of your attendance, we had a tremendous turn out! Thank you for your support and involvement. With your support and commitment to your child and to Buckley, our students are succeeding at a high level.

I also want to thank everyone for their participation in completing the parent/guardian survey for Buckley School. We truly appreciate you taking the time to provide us with valuable information and feedback. Thank you!

To begin with, I would like to introduce our new Buckley School secretary, Ms. Daniella Dorsey. Ms. Daniella Dorsey takes over for Mrs. Sue Brown. Ms. Dorsey comes to Buckley School with much experience both in the private industry and with Manchester Public Schools. With Manchester Public Schools, she was a long term substitute secretary at Verplanck School. Please welcome Ms. Dorsey to Buckley School!

As you know, the PTA held its Book Fair. The Book Fair was held in the gymnasium and once again, it exceeded our expectations! A sincere thank you to the PTA and its volunteers for their efforts!

As Spring approaches, we begin to plan for the next school year. One of our major tasks is the development of class lists.

Please know that it is our responsibility to help children learn to adjust to new situations, new classmates and different teaching styles. This is part of the learning process that enables students to experience success throughout their educational careers. With this in mind, please understand that we will develop the class lists and class placements. Thank you.

A few months ago, I sent an email that provided an update on our progress with respect to our School Improvement Plan. Listed below is a brief overview of our progress with respect to our School Improvement Plan.

- We continue to track the progress of our students who are in our intervention groups;
- Our literacy and numeracy coaches work with our teachers both individually and in the classroom in order to strengthen Tier 1 instruction;
- We continue to strengthen our home school collaboration through holding our weekly parent meetings, identifying more students through our pep rallies and our Pillars of Character Board;
- Buckley staff has implemented best practices specific to instruction in a variety of areas including writer's workshop and math workshop model (small group instruction) as well as continuing our practice of Professional Learning Communities. In our Professional Learning Community meetings, we discuss our teaching practice, analyze our curriculum and look at student progress.
- Continue to implement curricular units aligned to the common core.

If you have any questions on this, please stop by or call me to discuss further.

We only have three more months until the end of the school year! Our last three months will be very busy with many activities. For your convenience, I have outlined the April, May and June activities that we will be having here at Buckley.

Lastly, I will be scheduling a curriculum night/common core night in order to provide information on our curriculum and the common core. Please look for more information in April.

I look forward to the next few months and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Fondly,

Principal Matthew Daly

APRIL

13TH –
17TH

SPRING VACATION

24TH

PTA FAMILY LEGO NIGHT

MAY

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

4TH–5TH,
11TH

SPRING CONCERT 7 P.M.

19TH

KINDERGARTEN VISITATION DAYS

27TH –
28TH

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION
BREAKFAST

29TH

JUNE

3RD

KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION

5TH

FIELD DAY!

RAIN DATE: JUNE 10TH

22ND

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

KINDERGARTEN

It's hard to believe that it's already April! March was a very busy month for us! We have been preparing for Spring time and learning about the changes in the seasons. In science we have been talking about the weather. Each day we discuss the weather and have been keeping track of it on a graph. In math we are finishing up our unit on teen numbers. In April we will be learning about shapes. In Language Arts our focus has been on non-fiction books. We have been reading stories about spring and learning about living and non-living things. We have been working very hard on our writing and starting to identify sight words in different stories that we are reading. April will be another fun-filled month for us. We will be planting flowers and watching them grow. Keep practicing the kindergarten sight words; this will help your child continue to grow as a reader and writer. Happy Spring!

FIRST GRADE

March was a busy month for our fabulous First Graders. We enjoyed meeting with parents to discuss growth and progress. During April we will continue to work on building reading fluency and comprehension. We will focus more on non-fiction text as we explore weather. Please continue to read every night with your child as it allows them to practice skills we are teaching in the classroom. In math we will be working on geometric shapes, problem solving and number operations. Please continue to practice math facts at home. Math concepts develop quickly when students can see the relationship between numbers. First Graders are also working on publishing some of their writing. We have been working on writing opinion essays. Thank you for all your support!

SECOND GRADE

The month of March has blown by, and the second grade students continue to work hard and challenge themselves across all content areas!

In reading the students have been studying the informational text features often used within nonfiction texts. The students have also been working on identifying the main idea of a passage or paragraph. This is a challenging task, as the students are also required to locate supporting details. In writing, the students are crafting their very own informational texts including an introduction, a table of contents, and more! Please be sure to invite your child to tell you all about their area of expertise, as they have become experts at the topic they have selected to write about. In math the students have learned about the various attributes of two dimensional and three dimensional shapes. They have even learned about fractions and partitioning shapes! Our current focus is on measurement in inches, centimeters and yards. Be sure to ask your child what they know about the units of measurement!

Thank you for meeting with us during the March conferences! It was such a pleasure sharing all of the wonderful learning that the students are doing here at Buckley School!

THIRD GRADE

Thank you for coming in to meet with us during parent teacher conferences. We enjoyed sharing your child's strengths with you. This month we will be beginning our Lucy Calkins Writing Workshop unit on Persuasive/Opinion pieces. Students will be encouraged to look for problems in their community and create solutions in their Persuasive Writing. We will also be starting our Persuasive/Opinion reading comprehension unit. Mr. Sweetland found this awesome nonfiction series with titles like, "You wouldn't want to be a knight living in a castle." These short texts explore the not so pleasant aspects of living in certain time periods. In Math we will be exploring equivalent fractions.

Happy April Vacation!

FOURTH GRADE

Thank you for attending parent teacher conferences in March. The home school connection is an integral part of your child's success. The school curriculum is carefully designed to teach the skills your child needs to become a lifelong learner, and your home environment supports that learning! As you know, fourth grade students will take the SBAC tests during the first weeks of April and the NWEA tests in May. While these tests may not be fun for your child they do not have to be a nightmare.

There are many things you can do to help your child feel confident on test taking days. Do not place too much emphasis on the upcoming test but answer any questions your child may have. Experts say supportive parents expect their children to do their best but do not set specific goals. Instead, assure your child that you will be happy with a positive and wholehearted effort. There is a lot of information at the Connecticut State Department of Education website under the heading student assessment. Please let us know if you have any questions.

FIFTH GRADE

The fifth graders are now all completely recovered from the madness of March. Our big focus of this third semester will be the American Revolution. This theme will be threaded through all subject areas, with the reading of novels, watching of films, and with traveling back in time to Sturbridge Village, a living history museum.

With the time change and more opportunity to play outside, and with all the busy sports schedules of spring, the temptation is to slack off or rush through the homework. Please try to encourage your child to be diligent with their responsibilities. Homework planners always have the information parents need to know about what is happening in school, and checking in every once in a while is a good idea.

Remember, we are all still working on Independent Reading. Students should be pacing themselves to read 20-30 minutes every day. If your child has "nothing to do", please hand him/her a favorite book. As Dr. Seuss said, "The more you read, the more you know. The more you know, the smarter you grow. The smarter you grow, the stronger your voice, when speaking your mind or making your choice." Read, read, read.

LITERACY COACH

Being able to write fluently and effectively is an important skill that we hope all students will master. There are many things parents can do to encourage writing at home

- Provide opportunities for your child to assist with creating shopping lists or taking phone messages.
- Involve your child in writing notes to school.
- Be a writing role model. Share your own writing with your child – personal letters, business letters, etc.
- Ask your child to write Thank You notes for gifts they have received.
- Encourage your child to send postcards on family vacations or to keep a travel log when taking trips.
- Have your child write letters to a pen pal or distant relative.
- Write a family newsletter and allow each family member to write their own section.
- Encourage your child to keep a diary or personal journal.

The more children write, the more fluent their writing will become! Involve your child in writing for a variety of purposes and in a variety of ways.

MAP

This month our themes were spring and shamrocks. We made shamrocks with a variety of green paper. We decorated butterflies with brightly colored tissue paper and sparkly glue. We added two new counting songs to our circle activities. They were “5 Little Shamrocks” and “10 Bunnies in a Basket”. We also added “Spring Song”, which tells us about the changes we see when spring arrives. Our teacher is very proud of all the progress we have made this marking period! Next month we will continue with our spring theme. We will complete some projects involving eggs, bunnies and other spring creatures.

Ms. Falkowski's K-2 students are focusing on throwing overhand and tossing underhand. Students are engaged in tasks and modified games with emphasis on throwing. Fourth graders have been working on their basketball skills. Some of the skills that they have been focusing on are the jump shot, passing and of course dribbling.

Mr. Kolze's classes also have been working on basketball skills. Students have been using a variety of equipment that help them develop their skills. Once the basketball unit is completed, we plan on moving into floor hockey with grades 3-5 and striking with long handled implements for the students in K-2



Things are beginning to melt outside, and our Spring Festival dances are beginning to come together. Kindergartners are marching up and down with ribbons for the 'Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy', while the First Graders are skipping in lines for their 'Grumpy March'. Second Grade classes are perfecting switching partners in a circle dance named 'Blaydon Races' while Third Grade is dancing and singing in three parts at the same time with 'Oh, How Lovely.' Fourth Grade has finally finished learning all the pieces



of the Sword Dance while the Fifth Grade has almost mastered the hardest move of the Stick Dance - the scramble! When not dancing, we have been using boom-whackers in many different ways. From the Armadillo Dance (where we hit 1-2-3!) to composing our own songs, they have been making some beautiful music. The Fifth Grade Honors Choir is also getting ready for their Town-wide concert on April 9th at 7:00 pm. Come and watch what is sure to be an enjoyable performance - they are doing a wonderful job! Keep singing, everybody!

It was wonderful to see so many families at the recent Lutz Exhibit on March 6, 2015. There was a lot of excitement in the air and many proud, smiling faces as students showed off their creative work. Students took part in a game of Art Bingo and were treated to many delicious appetizers and sparkling cider in fancy plastic glasses! Everyone seemed to be enjoying the fun! Congratulations to the following students who had artwork in this exhibit representing Buckley School!



KG	Julianna, Benson, Paul, Lucia, and Toby
1 st Grade	Vanessa, Natalia, Nadia, Juda, Hussain, Olivia, Carina, Taylor, and Kaylee
2 nd Grade	Mya, Karla, Adam, Paige, Jon, and Adriana
3 rd Grade	Myara, Nick, Megan, Joe, Katelyn, Daydrianna, Rowan, Kaylee, and EnoYaa
4 th Grade	Leesa, Jeiraliz, Julie, Logan, Bianca, Drake, Antonio, and Aaliyah
5 th Grade	Meagan, Madison, Paige, Emma, Stephen, and Zaniyah

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

Lunch Bunch has been running for about a month now with some great turn out. We still have room for other families to join if interested. If you would like to enroll in Lunch Bunch, please contact FRC Coordinator Sean Webster by calling the school or email Sean at webster@mpspride.org.

There is a presentation at Buckley School on March 31st at 6:15pm where representatives from 95210: Manchester's Message for a Healthier You will be talking about the initiative with special focus on reducing the amount of screen time in a day. Representatives from the Manchester Recreation Department and Bennett Academy FLASH Program will also be at the presentation talking about a for-kids-by-kids exercise DVD the FLASH Program has been working on. This event is open to everyone and should be a very fun and informative evening. This is the first of many presentations that will be offered by the Family Resource Center for the Buckley community.

SCHOOL NURSE

1. It may not feel like it with all this cold weather, but allergy season is arriving! Please review your child's allergy and asthma plan with your allergist or pediatrician. Many episodes of asthma, sinusitis or even red, itchy eyes can be prevented by early and ongoing treatment of allergies. Please consider how much easier it is for your child to learn when they are not distracted by uncomfortable symptoms of allergies when they are being treated regularly.
2. 5th Grade Parents: I am collecting any physicals done AFTER 1/1/15. If your 5th grader has had a physical since that date, please send in a copy. I will enter it into the system and include it in your child's health file. This is required for entry into the 7th grade and any physical after 1/1/15 will count toward that requirement. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 647-3303.

MEDIA CENTER

Spring is here and the PTA's spring book fair is complete. Many thanks to the PTA, and all the volunteers who made it happen. As always the book fair was a great success with many new books being added to both classroom collections and the Buckley Library.

"The first of April is the day we remember what we are the other 364 days of the year." -Mark Twain. So don't forget to enjoy one of the most lighthearted days of the year Wednesday, April 1st. When I think of April Fool's Day, my mind just naturally goes to limericks, such as:

The sun's showing off all its powers
For the first time in months, I see flowers!
It's the time when we know
That we will not see snow--
At least for a couple more hours

Which fits perfectly - because April is National Poetry Month. During this month we will be exploring the different formats poetry can take - from the rhyming stories in a picture book to novels written entirely in poems. Students in grades 4 and 5 will also be voting for their favorite Nutmeg from the 10 nominated books. Stay tuned next month for the winning title.

Buckley School PTA News and Events

BuckleyElementaryPTA@gmail.com



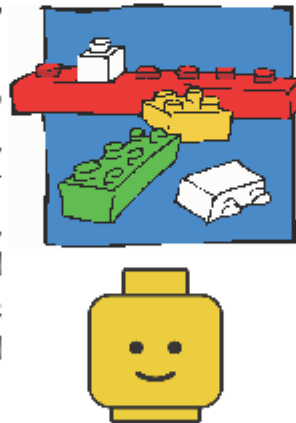
Our next PTA meeting will be held
Thursday, April 9, at 6:30 p.m.
in the Buckley cafeteria!



The PTA will hear from the fifth-grade teachers and their student representatives to find out what's going on in their classrooms. We hope to have someone from Bennet Academy on hand to provide an overview of next year. We'll also look ahead to our spring events!

LEGO BLOCK PARTY

Guess what? You'll actually get to bring toys to school during the PTA's Lego Block Party on Friday, April 24! Bring a bucket full of your best blocks, most versatile blocks, and tried-and-true favorite blocks for lots of play and friendly competition.



Plans are in the works right now, but we know we're going to need lots of volunteers to help. Email the PTA if you're interested. We know how much kids like to swap their mini-figures, so we'll have a Swapping Station just for trading!

VIP DANCE



The PTA will host a special dance just for Buckley students and the Very Important People in their lives. This event will be held Friday, May 15, on the evening of VIP Day at school. Watch for more information to come home.
This is sure to be one fun night!





April 25, 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian of Incoming (2015-2016) Kindergarten Students,

As you know, we are now well into the process of gathering information on next year's kindergarten students. At this time, I am asking that if you know of any children who do not currently have siblings at Buckley School and are entering Kindergarten for the 2015-2016 school year at Buckley, please provide us with their name and contact number so that we can follow up with them.

As we have done in the past, we are having classroom visits for the incoming students in May and early June. Listed below are the dates and times for these visits. Please contact Buckley School at 860-647-3302 to schedule a date and time for the visit. Also during this time, parents/guardians will be able to stay during the visit as I will be providing additional information specific to Buckley School and answer any questions that you may have. At this time, you will also be able to register on-line. Please note that your child will be visiting with our kindergarten teachers. Your child will be engaged in a variety of activities including listening to a story and organized play. Thank you.

<u>May 27</u>	<u>May 28</u>	<u>June 3</u>
9:30-10:45	9:30-10:45	9:30-10:45
11:00-12:15	11:00-12:15	11:00-12:15
	1:00-2:15	

As always, do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need assistance in regards to your child entering Buckley School. We look forward to meeting you and your child.

Sincerely,

Matthew Daly

Principal

PBS TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Teacher	Be Safe	Be Respectful	Be Responsible
Mrs. Hoffman	Dylan Siggia	Anna Baidya	Jacob Hall
Ms. Lavallee	Bassel Taleb	Aamah Babar	Julianna Kulpanowski
Miss Patrylak	Summer Knoff	Fedora Yeboah	Makai Badeau
Mrs. Bourcier	Kylee Cruelles	Aubrey Edwards	Gavin Tomic
Ms. Seaha	Sean Stolarz	Hassan Taleb	Braeden Keene
Mrs. Rodowicz	Asher Forde		
Miss Adams	Ben Milvae	Mobeen Mian	Katie Maloney
Ms. Strickland	Alexa Renduchintala	Jonathan Daub	Amy Nguyen
Mrs. Boccia	Isabella Shea		
Mrs. Edwards	Samantha Ward	Brandon Houghton	Anthony Jackson
Mr. Murphy	Lindsay Jackson	Xavier Torres	Daydrianna Matos
Mr. Sweetland	Jenny Rose Katibian	Kaylee Cormier	Rowan Ridel
Ms. Godbout	Tommy Rodgers	Shubhan Tamhane	Sam Arruda
Ms. Hoke	William Solito	Jacob Perez	Michael Minutillo
Ms. Marocchini	Li'Ania Ashley	Krina Patel	Jack Bienvenue
Mrs. Lonergan	Alejandro Monge		
Mrs. Adinolfi	Zachary Zdrojowy	Madison March	Olivia Zucaro
Mrs. Jodoin	Zaniyah Ware	Katie Neubauer	Cody Winchell
Ms. Brahm	Sabrina Keovilay	Paige Walsh	Christopher Lascano

PILLAR OF CITIZENSHIP

Elijah Bucko	Patrick Fraro	Lila Smith	Carina Brown
Chelsea Zalcman	Derek Yeboah	Bailey Downey	Julian Rock
Myara Kharboush	Corey Verranault	Kaylee Cormier	Julia Zingler
Camden Becker	Skyler Caparas	Arlon Poteat	Jaydah Davis
	Stephen Gagnon	Jacob Tinson	